

## Health insurance reform and Medicare

There is a lot of misinformation out there about how health care reform will affect seniors. To be 100% clear:

**Health insurance reform is not aimed at cutting Medicare benefits. It specifically prohibits benefit cuts. Reform is aimed at reducing waste, fraud & abuse within the system while strengthening Medicare and extending the solvency of program.**

Medicare is expected to spend almost \$8 trillion over the next decade. The bill aims to cut 5 percent of that \$8 trillion by targeting bureaucratic waste, fraud and abuse. I know people get nervous when they hear about trimming money from Medicare, but does anyone really believe that there isn't waste in the system? Does anyone who has ever filled out a duplicate form, or looked at their hospital bill or seen how much they've been charged for a pill honestly believe there isn't bureaucracy to be eliminated and money to be saved by doing it?

While health reform does not cut Medicare benefits, something it does do is fix the outrageous Medicare Part D donut hole. Almost 10,000 seniors in this district hit the donut hole every year and are forced to pay their full drug costs, despite paying for Part D drug coverage. **The House plan will also extend the solvency of Medicare by nearly a decade**, eliminate all co-pays for preventative services, and help people stay in their homes rather than going to nursing homes.

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